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Addendum

Programme questions

Proposed revision to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 18. Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 17th meeting, on 15 June 1998, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia.

2. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) introduced the revisions to programme 18 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. It was pointed out that, in the absence of the consideration of the proposed revisions by the Commission, an ad hoc mechanism for the review of these revisions should have been established. The Committee was informed that the views of the member States of the Commission on the revisions would be sought in the context of the report on the activities of the Commission that is dispatched to them in the years when the Commission does not meet.

4. The view was expressed that the meaning of the terminology proposed to be used in paragraph 18.12 (a) (gender-sensitive demographic analysis) and in paragraph 18.13 (a) (feminization of poverty) needed to be clarified. The Committee was informed that the terminology "feminization of poverty" was used in the Beijing Declaration and Platform

98-17949 (E) 240698

for Action, and that the words "gender-sensitive" before "demographic analysis" meant that the demographic analysis to be carried out by ESCWA would include gender variables.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 18 of the medium-term plan, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 18.12 (a)

Replace **gender-sensitive demographic analysis** ***with*** **demographic analysis, including gender variables**

Paragraph 18.13 (a)

Replace **feminization of poverty** ***with*** **increasing impact of poverty on women**